



August 7, 2024

Papio-Missouri River NRD Board of Directors,

On Friday, the Legislature is scheduled to begin debate on Governor Pillen's property tax package. Since the beginning of the Special Session, the Governor's property tax package has changed significantly. On Tuesday, the Governor announced the version that will be debated on the floor which draws from a variety of legislation introduced in the special session. Notably, the updated version of the Governor's plan includes a removal of natural resource district property tax levy, likely similar to Senator Wayne's LB 67.

Beginning in FY2025-26, Senator Wayne's LB 67 would remove the local property tax levy for natural resource districts, replacing funding with state aid. State aid would be equal to the natural resource district's current property tax levy plus 3.5% yearly. A local property tax levy by natural resource districts would only be allowed if the state does not provide state aid. As the drafting of legislation is not yet completed, the exact language directly impacting natural resource districts is unknown. Catalyst Public Affairs will continue to work with Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District general manager John Winkler, natural resource district stakeholders, and legislative stakeholders to oppose attacks on the levy authority of natural resource districts.

Before the Special Session, we were aware of the possibility of renewed attacks on the natural resource districts' ability to levy taxes. Catalyst Public Affairs has been working with John Winkler and Dean Edson to educate legislators on the negative impacts of removing levy authority, including impacts on local control and grant awards. We welcome the board's feedback in our efforts to maintain the levy authority of natural resource districts. We would request that you contact your Senator to ask that natural resource districts be removed from LB 9, the main property tax revenue bill. Please feel free to contact me if you want to discuss the current status of the bill.

Sincerely,

Tim Gay

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